

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 have been examined. Claims 1, 8-10, 16, 17, and 23 have been amended. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of these claims at the earliest possible date.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,617,539, issued to Ludwig (herein Ludwig), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,574,934, issued to Mirashrafi et al. (herein Mirashrafi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested in view of the amendments and addition made to the claims and of the following discussion.

Applicant submits that neither Ludwig nor Mirashrafi teaches or suggest the establishment of a listen string containing an application signature, an application signal type, and an application signal port. In contrast, Applicant's invention allows call set up using a signal type and a signal port, which is contained in a listen string. Thus, Applicant's system allows application-independent call establishment, which does not depend on a specific application to be present. All that is required is that an application be present that is able to handle the specific signal port and signal type. (See Mirashrafi, col. 20, lines 32-36 to compare--Mirashrafi only allowing launching of the same application at the other end.)

In view of the foregoing discussion and the amendments made to the claims, Applicant submits that the § 103(a) rejections are overcome. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the § 103(a) rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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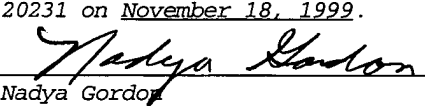
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on November 18, 1999.


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